



January 19, 2006

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
**Los Angeles Region**  
**Jonathan Bishop, Executive Officer**

**Executive Officer's Report**

**Surface Water Division**

***Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)***

**Aerial Deposition**

Melinda Becker

At the October Board Meeting, Board members requested a summary from the 10/20 State Board hearing regarding aerial deposition. At the State Board hearing two findings were added to Resolution No. 2005-0077 concerning aerial deposition.

Number 5 — To the extent that pollutant loadings from indirect atmospheric deposition over land are being conveyed to stormwater discharges, these loadings are included in the stormwater waste load allocations. Recent studies have shown that atmospheric deposition of particulates containing trace metals in the urban areas of the Los Angeles Region are a substantial source of metals contaminants on land surfaces. (Sabin et al., 2005). The Los Angeles Water Board met with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to discuss the findings of recent studies. It appears that larger particulates are responsible for the highest loadings of metals in atmospheric deposition, and therefore pose the greatest risk to water quality. The two agencies have identified the need to (1) expand monitoring of larger particulates in atmospheric deposition to better gauge the potential impact to water quality and (2) to investigate the sources of these metals in order to design a control strategy. The Los Angeles Water Board and the State Water Board will continue to meet with the SCAQMD and CARB to pursue these studies and to assist in developing control strategies.

Number 6—The State Water Board encourages local municipalities within the urban watersheds in the Los Angeles Region and Los Angeles County also to work with the SCAQMD and CARB to further the identification and control of sources of trace metals in atmospheric deposition.

**Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors TMDLs**

LB Nye

Los Angeles Regional Board staff held the first Advisory Council stakeholder meeting for the Dominguez Channel and Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor TMDLs on De-

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ember 14, 2005 at the Regional Board Offices to discuss data needs and stakeholder participation in the TMDLs. Approximately 100 contaminant/waterbody combinations are included on the 303(d) impaired waterbody list for waterbodies in the Dominguez Channel and Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor watersheds. Stakeholder participation in the development of these TMDLs will include an “Advisory Council” and a “Technical Advisory Committee” (TAC). The Advisory Council will recommend further outreach, coordinate with other water quality efforts in the watershed, suggest relevant studies, offer resources to address needed studies and discuss implementation. The TAC will be the principal avenue for stakeholder technical expertise on the TMDL and will provide data and technical expertise and local watershed knowledge, enabling the development of a robust hydrodynamic and water quality model.

The agenda at the Advisory Council meeting included a discussion of the roles of the Advisory Council and TAC and a discussion of priority data needs for the development of the Dominguez Channel and Harbors TMDLs. The first TAC meeting will be in late January and the next public meeting will be a CEQA scoping meeting planned for February 2005.

### **Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Metals and Toxic Pollutants TMDLs Approved by USEPA**

Jenny Newman

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved the Los Angeles River Metals TMDL, the Ballona Creek Metals TMDL, and the Ballona Creek Estuary Toxic Pollutants TMDL on December 22, 2005. The approved TMDLs will be in effect when the Regional Board files the Notice of Decision with the California Resources Agency, which is expected to occur in early January 2006.

The approved TMDLs address metals and toxic pollutant impairments as identified on the 2002 Clean Water Act section 303(d) list. The Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek metals TMDL protect aquatic life and recreational beneficial uses by meeting water quality objectives set to protect these uses as contained in the California Toxics Rule. The Ballona Creek Estuary Toxic Pollutants TMDL protects aquatic life and recreational beneficial uses in the Estuary by meeting sediment quality guidelines compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The TMDLs allocate loadings among point and nonpoint sources of pollutants, including storm water sources. The TMDLs allow special studies to refine allocations and set flexible implementation schedules for responsible parties to meet the TMDLs.

### **Calleguas Creek Stakeholder Meeting – Current status of the Calleguas Creek Metals and Selenium TMDL**

Thanhloan Nguyen

Regional Board staff have worked closely with the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan (CCWMP) and US EPA in development of the Calleguas Creek Metals and Selenium TMDL. During the development of the technical support document for this TMDL, Regional Board staff, US EPA, the CCWMP, and staff from Larry Walker Associates have met on a frequent and regular basis to develop a detailed technical document that analyzes and describes the specific necessity and rationale for this TMDL. On December 13, 2005, Regional Board staff attended the Calleguas Creek Watershed Stakeholder meeting at Calleguas Municipal Water District to discuss the current status and remaining issues. The following are some highlights:

The current draft Technical support document includes numeric targets based on dissolved metals concentration to address the CTR standards. Regional Board staff found that the sediment concentration numeric targets are also needed to address the total metal loading including metals that are adsorbed to particulates and sediments. Regional Board staff question the proposed sediment based targets because the science to support the ten-year average as protective has not been developed. Regional Board staff recommend nu-

meric targets based on guidelines developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA sets forth Effects-Range Low (ERL) values that are protective and were used in other metals and toxic pollutant TMDLs adopted by the Regional Board. In those TMDLs, the use of the ERL values were considered as part of the implicit margin of safety (MOS). Environmental stakeholder have expressed support for NOAA ERL targets.

There are several factors that create uncertainties which could affect the accuracy of calculations made during development of this TMDL and thus the ultimate effectiveness of the Waste Load and Load Allocations. For this TMDL, the water quality model under-predicts the dissolved loads and therefore the total allocations. Regional Board also found that the water quality model calibration report is needed to develop an appropriate MOS.

Regional Board staff will continue to work closely with stakeholders, staff from LWA, and EPA to complete the TMDL and have it ready for public review and present before the Board by summer of this year

### **Machado Lake TMDL Development**

Rebecca Veiga Nascimento

On December 1, 2005 Regional Board staff conducted an initial site visit to Machado Lake. This site visit kicked off the Regional Board staff undertaking the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address water quality impairments of Machado Lake. Machado Lake is currently listed as impaired by trash, nutrients, and toxic organics. During the site visit, Regional Board staff conducted basic water quality sampling and generally assessed the condition of the lake. A detailed and comprehensive monitoring plan is currently being reviewed to aid in the development of robust TMDLs. The Regional Board staff is looking forward to the opportunity of working with stakeholders to complete the Machado Lake TMDLs.

For additional information on the development of Machado Lake TMDLs, please contact Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6661 or [rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov)

### **Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands**

Rebecca Veiga Nascimento

Regional Board staff was invited to give a presentation on the new Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands at the December 14, 2005 meeting of the California Association of Pesticide Applicators. The meeting was held in Santa Paula, California and was well attended, with approximately 75 local and regional stakeholders present. The presentation covered the elements of the conditional waiver and the requirements for growers to enroll and participate in the program. It is the goal of Regional Board staff to provide additional educational presentations and informational materials on the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands in the near future. Regional Board staff will continue to work with the agricultural community to effectively and efficiently implement the waiver program.

For additional information on the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands, please contact Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6661 or [rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov) or Sam Unger at (213) 576-6784 or [sunger@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sunger@waterboards.ca.gov).

## ***Enforcement Unit***

### **Notices of Violation for Discharge of Squid Off-loading Wastes to Fish Harbor**

On December 23, 2005 The Executive Officer issued Notices of Violation and Requirements to Submit

Information to DEL MAR SEAFOOD, WESTERN FISH COMPANY, and SEVEN OCEANS FISHERIES CORPORATION located in FISH HARBOR, SAN PEDRO for illegal discharges of wastes from their squid and/or fish off-loading operations resulting in impacts to beneficial uses of waters of the state including reducing dissolved oxygen to levels not sufficient to support most forms of aquatic life. The dischargers were directed to immediately cease discharge of wastes, initiate a cleanup and abatement program and prepare a technical report that summarizes the efforts being made. The reports are due to the Regional Board by January 15, 2006.

### **Mandatory Minimum Penalty issued to the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County**

Joyce Lee

Complaint No. R4-2005-0045 for Mandatory Minimum Penalty was issued against the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County on December 20, 2005 for \$264,000, for violation of waste discharge requirements contained in Regional Board Order Nos. 95-081 and R4-2003-0145. The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County has until January 23, 2006 to submit a signed waiver and the penalty assessed to the Regional Board.

### **Cleanup and Abatement Order issued to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) was issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R4-2005-0077 on November 30, 2005. SSFL is located at the top of Woolsey Canyon Road in the Simi Hills, Ventura County, California. The CAO requires SSFL to immediately implement certain measures to cleanup and abate the discharges of wastewater and storm water runoff into the waters of the state. The SSFL has violated the Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order No. R4-2004-0111 by discharging effluent that has chronically exceeded the effluent limits from 1998 through 2005.

## ***Watershed Regulatory***

### **Raw Sewage Spill – County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County’s Valencia WRP**

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSDLAC) contacted Regional Board staff on Wednesday afternoon, January 4, 2006, notifying them that approximately one million gallons of raw sewage had spilled near the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant. An electrical wiring problem, which resulted in a loss of power to the sewer pumps, caused the raw sewage to seep out of the sewer line, through the manholes, and into nearby streets. Although some of the sewage was contained and vacuumed into trucks for later disposal at the plant, a large volume of untreated sewage did make its way into nearby storm drains along Stanford Avenue; onto a field along the Old Road; and, into unlined reaches of the Santa Clara River. In the morning which followed the spill, Regional Board staff inspected the Valencia WRP and area in which the spill took place. There were no visible signs of the spill on Stanford Avenue. However, there was an odor of sewage origin detected along the Old Road, where soil cleanup operations were still underway. There was some sediment detected at the bottom of a concrete-lined tributary to the Santa Clara River, in the section between the 5 Freeway-crossing and the Old Road-crossing. There were no visible signs of the spill along the Santa Clara River, however, a clean-up crew had cleaned up some debris along the streambed prior to Regional Board staff’s arrival onsite. It was unclear if the debris and sediment was a result of the storm events that had happened in the days prior to the spill, or if they were present as a result of the spill. When interviewed by staff, CSDLAC representatives said that the actual volume of sewage spilled may be closer to 1.2 million gallons, rather than the initial estimated value of 1 million gallons. In accordance with their NPDES permit requirement, CSDLAC collected coliform samples at various receiving water stations on the day of the spill and will continue doing so for four additional days. CSDLAC will submit a written report to the Regional Board with the following information: a detailed explanation of the cause of the spill, the exact volume of sewage that entered the River, the clean-up operations which took place, and the meas-

ures which will be implemented to prevent such an event from recurring. The Enforcement Unit will be reviewing all information pertaining to the spill to determine the appropriate enforcement action.

During the month of November 2005, 5 dischargers were enrolled under the general NPDES permits, one enrollment was revised, and three enrollments were terminated. During the month of December 2005, 12 dischargers were enrolled under the general NPDES permits, and six enrollments were terminated. The Table shown as **Attachment "A" Table I** contains a breakdown of the enrollments, revisions, and terminations for each category of general NPDES permit.

## ***Stormwater Compliance***

### **Monthly Storm Water Inspection Report**

Ejigu Solomon

During the month of November 2005, storm water staff inspected about 68 sites. Of these, 28 are industrial facilities, and the other 40 construction sites. Of the 40 construction sites, 31 are sites filing for notice of termination (NOT). Staff have continued to closely look into post-construction best management practices (BMPs) during NOT inspections. When no or inadequate BMPs are identified at new development or redevelopment projects, not only is that grounds for the NOT denial, but also staff send information request letters on approved BMPs to the respective municipalities. So far, the Cities of Baldwin Park, Lawndale, Los Angeles, and El Segundo have been requested to provide details of post-construction BMPs at projects of interest within their respective jurisdictions.

### **Shea Homes**

The Attorney General filed a criminal suit against Shea Homes on December 20, 2005 for discharges related to stormwater runoff in December 2004. The AG's suit included violations cited by the Regional Board and the Dept. of Fish and Game.

## ***Watershed Management***

### **Ventura River Watershed**

A "State of the Watershed" report for the Ventura River Watershed prepared by Regional Board staff is available. The report describes the watershed and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The complete set of data evaluated for the report (as well as the report itself) is available electronically by contacting Shirley Birosik at [sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov). The report can also be downloaded in its entirety by accessing the Regional Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> and clicking on "Watersheds" on the left side-bar which leads to a clickable map of the region's watersheds for information specific to each one. Hardcopies are also available.

An Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is ongoing in the watershed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ventura County Flood Control District are the major partners in this effort which will evaluate, among other options, the feasibility of restoring the ecosystem through removal of Matilija Dam. The Final EIR/EIS was released in September 2004 and federal funding is currently being pursued for final design work. More information, including project reports and the Final EIR/EIS, may be obtained on the website <http://www.matilijadam.org/>.

The Matilija Coalition is a local group committed to removal of Matilija Dam and subsequent ecosystem restoration. More information about the group may be found at <http://www.matilija-coalition.org/>.

### **Santa Clara River Watershed**

A public review draft of a "State of the Watershed" report prepared by Regional Board staff will be available in early spring 2006 for the Santa Clara River Watershed. A draft Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan (SCREMP) was developed to address management of the 500-year floodplain of the main

river corridor. Related to the SCREMP, Clean Water Act Section 205(j) grant monies have been awarded to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for development of a comprehensive river monitoring plan. Additionally, an Army Corps of Engineers-sponsored watershed-wide planning effort has begun which will follow up on the intensive effort put into river corridor planning.

In 1994, a pipeline over the Santa Clara River ruptured during the Northridge Earthquake and spilled crude oil. Funds from a settlement for natural resources damages are being administered by the Santa Clara River Trustee Council which is made up of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and California Department of Fish and Game. The Trustee agencies completed a Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Santa Clara River ARCO Oil Spill (Restoration Plan) to guide the use of the settlement funds. The Trustees have begun implementing preferred projects described in the Restoration Plan by identifying potential land acquisition and habitat restoration opportunities in the Santa Clara River Watershed.

Some of the oil spill settlement funds have been allocated to studies of the river's biota that will eventually be utilized by the Coastal Conservancy's Santa Clara River Parkway Restoration Feasibility Study. The results of the feasibility study will be used in restoration of parcels along the river being acquired by the Coastal Conservancy.

The Ventura County Task Force of the Wetlands Recovery Project meets on the second Thursday of the month, generally from 2- 4 PM, at the Ventura County Government Center's Multipurpose Room. Updates on the feasibility study and on projects funded by the settlement funds will occur at these meetings on an as-needed basis.

### **Calleguas Creek Watershed**

The Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Committee was convened in 1996 to initiate development of a comprehensive watershed management plan. A large group of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local agencies, landowners, businesses, and nonprofit organizations are represented. An Executive Steering Committee, consisting of a much smaller group of stakeholders, guides the day-to-day activities of the watershed group. Subcommittees have changed through time but currently target Water Resources/ Water Quality, Flood Protection and Sediment Management, Habitat/Open Space/ Recreation, Land Use, Public Outreach/Education, and Agriculture. Subcommittees generally meet monthly or bimonthly. The Management Plan Committee as a whole is currently focusing its attention on TMDL work in the watershed. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees as well as documents and meeting dates can be found at <http://www.calleguascreek.org/>.

### **Miscellaneous Ventura Coastal Watershed Management Area**

An oil pipeline ruptured in December 1993, spilling more than 2,000 barrels of crude oil into McGrath Lake and onto nearby beaches. A Trustee Council was eventually formed to plan and manage restoration of natural resources using settlement funds. The McGrath State Beach Area Berry Petroleum Oil Spill Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment may be viewed at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/scientific/nrda/NRDAmcgrath.htm>. The draft plan outlines criteria for evaluating the restoration alternatives and addresses the potential environmental effects of each.

A wetlands restoration plan is being developed by the State Coastal Conservancy and its consultants for the Ormond Beach Wetlands. Progress on this work is generally discussed at Ormond Beach Task Force meetings held on the fourth Thursday every other month in Oxnard.

### **Los Angeles River Watershed**

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The Watershed Council is a consortium of government agencies, community and environmental groups, business and academia who organized both to resolve and prevent problems in the watershed in a cooperative, collaborative manner.

Formation of the Watershed Council grew out of a conference held in 1995 to discuss how to initiate and/or implement watershed management objectives in the greater Los Angeles Area. Stakeholders in attendance agreed to continue meeting and begin a multi-purpose cooperative watershed management process that is open to the public. The Council's website is at <http://www.lasgrwc.org>. The Watershed Council has published a document entitled, "Beneficial Uses of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers." Copies may be requested via the Council's website. The Watershed Council was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan. Compton Creek is a tributary to the lower Los Angeles River. A steering committee and a community action team developed the Plan which can be found at <ftp://www.lasgrwc.org/ComptonCreek>. The steering committee is actively meeting to start implementation of Plan elements. More information may be found on the Watershed Council's website at <http://www.lasgrwc.org/ComptonCreekWMP.htm>.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), in partnership with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a Rio Hondo Watershed Management Plan. The Rio Hondo is a major subwatershed draining to the Los Angeles River. It is anticipated that the RMC will adopt it as part of their Rivers and Tributaries Greenway Plan. A webpage for the watershed management planning process is at [http://www.rmc.ca.gov/rio\\_hondo/rh\\_index.html](http://www.rmc.ca.gov/rio_hondo/rh_index.html).

Information about the Arroyo Seco, a major tributary to the Los Angeles River, may be found at the Arroyo Seco Foundation's website <http://www.arroyoseco.org/>. Northeast Trees was awarded Proposition 13 grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare an Arroyo Seco Watershed Management and Restoration Plan. A public draft of the document will be available in January 2006.

The Friends of the LA River is a nonprofit organization formed in 1986 in support of Los Angeles River restoration activities. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.folar.org/>.

The River Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to planning for natural resource protection, conservation and enhancement in Los Angeles County. The group has received CalFed funding to develop a watershed management plan for the Tujunga Watershed, a subwatershed of the Los Angeles River. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.theriverproject.org/> and about the Tujunga Wash project at <http://www.tujungawash.org/>.

The Amigos de los Rios is a nonprofit organization working with cities and residents to renew urban neighborhoods. A current project being worked on is the Emerald Necklace, a vision for a 17 mile loop of parks and greenways connecting 10 cities and nearly 500,000 residents along the Río Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. More information about the organization may be found at <http://www.amigosdelosrios.org/>.

### **San Gabriel River Watershed**

A "State of the Watershed" report is available for the San Gabriel River Watershed which was prepared by Regional Board staff in 2000. The report describes the watershed, with its many diversion structures and recharge areas, and summarizes available water quality data in a manner easily understood by the layperson. The complete set of data evaluated for the report (as well as the report itself) is available electronically by contacting Shirley Birosik at [sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov). The report can also be downloaded in its entirety by accessing the Regional Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> and clicking on "Watersheds" on the left side-bar which leads to a clickable map of the region's watersheds for information specific to each one. Hardcopies of the report are also available.

There are ongoing meetings being held for planning of a San Gabriel River Education Center which may be built in the Whittier Narrows area. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM at the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District offices.

In 1999, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Public Works (in cooperation with the County Departments of Parks and Recreation and Regional Planning) to prepare a San Gabriel River Master Plan. The National Park Service through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assis-

tance Program will assist in the development effort. All river stakeholders have been invited to participate. The Master Plan will be a consensus-based document that will recognize and address River issues and concerns of the stakeholders. It will include areas within existing rights of way from Morris Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains to the River's outlet in Seal Beach. The Master Plan will identify project opportunities for: enhancements for recreation, open space, and habitat areas; restoration; preservation of the River's natural resources; maintaining flood protection and existing water rights. The Master Plan effort will be coordinated with the activities of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy. The public review draft may be obtained at <http://www.sangabrielriver.com/>.

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) has produced a Guiding Principles Watershed and Open Space Plan which may be obtained at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>. Meeting notices for the Conservancy's Board are also on the website. The Conservancy is an independent State agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California established by state law in 1999. Its jurisdiction includes the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills. It was established to preserve urban open space and habitats in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within its jurisdiction. Implementation of the Open Space Plan is occurring partly through award of pass-through grant funds.

The San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) is a private, nonprofit, collaborative organization established in 1997. The SGMRC was awarded a Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant by the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a watershed plan for the three sub-watersheds above Whittier Narrows: San Jose Creek, Walnut Creek, and the Upper San Gabriel River. More information may be found on their website at <http://www.sgmrc.org/>.

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Malibu Creek Watershed**

The Malibu Creek Watershed Executive and Advisory Council have met on a bimonthly basis for many years and is concerned with a variety of human health and habitat issues. Current active committees/task forces under the Council include those focusing on habitat/species, monitoring/water quality, education, and Rindge Dam. The Council's Malibu Lagoon Task Force began to meet again due to active lagoon restoration planning now underway. Information on the lagoon restoration planning process and a copy of the final lagoon restoration plan funded by the Coastal Conservancy may be found at <http://www.healthebay.org/currentissues/mlhep/default.asp>. The Monitoring Subcommittee also meets regularly to serve as a Technical Advisory Committee to a Proposition 13-funded watershed-wide monitoring program.

Minutes from previous Council meetings, agendas for future meetings, and information about the watershed may be found on the Council's website at <http://www.malibuwatershed.org/>.

A Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is underway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Parks and Recreation are the major partners in this effort which will evaluate, among other options, the feasibility of restoring the ecosystem through removal of Rindge Dam. The technical advisory group for the effort meets monthly while a larger stakeholder focus group last met on June 16.

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Topanga Creek Watershed**

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed since 1998. This group was formed as a followup to the Topanga Canyon Floodplain Management Citizens' Advisory Committee which produced a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Plan in 1996. A major goal of the watershed committee has been to prioritize potential watershed protection actions previously identified, and participate in a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A watershed management plan was final-

ized in 2002. The Committee will continue work on implementation of actions identified in the Management Plan. The group generally meets monthly, alternating between the third Thursday night and the second Saturday morning. Their website address is <http://www.topangacreekwatershed.org/>.

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area – Ballona Creek Watershed**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works was awarded a Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant by the State Water Resources Control Board to prepare a watershed plan for Ballona Creek. The Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force met for about a year during Plan development and the final Plan was released at the group's September 2004 meeting. A watershed coordinator was hired with Department of Conservation funds to help guide implementation of the plan and lead the Task Force in future meetings. The group is currently pursuing establishment of a nonprofit. The group meets in the afternoon on the third Tuesday of the month, generally in Culver City. Meeting minutes and agendas may be found at <http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/bc/>.

The State Coastal Conservancy in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game and State Lands Commission has begun work on developing a restoration plan for Ballona Wetlands. More information about this work may be found at <http://www.scc.ca.gov/Ballona/index.html>.

### **Dominguez Watershed**

The Dominguez Watershed includes the waters of Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors, Machado Lake, and the land areas draining into them. The Dominguez Watershed Advisory Council was formed in February 2001 and met on a monthly basis for three years to conduct a variety of tasks including development of a Watershed Management Master Plan (funded by Proposition 13) aimed at protecting and improving the environment and beneficial uses of the watershed. The watershed plan was finalized and a list of potential implementation projects/programs was included in the Plan. The Funding Subcommittee has recently become active again and is investigating possible means to fund a watershed coordinator to lead future implementation and outreach efforts. Meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of every other month now. The group's website is at <http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/dc/>.

### **Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay Watershed Management Area**

A feasibility study for restoration of Colorado Lagoon was funded by the Coastal Conservancy. The lagoon is a tidal water body connected to Alamitos Bay via a box culvert. The lagoon is heavily utilized for recreational activities; it is in a natural low point of the watershed and thus receives a considerable amount of urban runoff and has impaired water quality. The purpose of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study is to evaluate and recommend feasible opportunities to restore the marine ecosystem and support safe recreation while improving water and sediment quality and managing storm water in the lagoon. More information on the study may be found at <http://www.longbeach.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=561>.

### **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the WRP works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The WRP is headed by a Board of Governors comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Southern California Wetlands Managers Group and the Public Advisory Committee serve as advisory groups to the Board. The Wetlands Managers Group is responsible for drafting the regional restoration plan and advising the Governing Board on regional acquisition, restoration, and enhancement priori-

ties. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. If you sign up on the WRP's listserve at <http://www.scwrp.org/contact.htm>, you will receive email notification of all board meetings. The Board of Governors last met on July 21 in Long Beach and approved a new two-year workplan. A symposium and the next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for March 8-10, 2006, in Santa Barbara. More information about this event may be found on the WRP's webpage at <http://www.scwrp.org>.

County Task Forces help solicit projects for consideration for WRP funding by the Managers Group and Board of Governors. The program provides funding for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. Both the Ventura and Los Angeles County Task Forces have Education Subcommittees which are looking to build on existing education programs while identifying gaps to be filled.

The WRP also has a Science Advisory Panel (SAP) and a wetlands ecologist who acts as liaison with the SAP. Recent activities have focused on coordination with a statewide effort to develop methods for rapid assessment of wetlands and development of a wetlands regional monitoring program. A paper on the habitat value of treatment wetlands has also been written and is available on the WRP's webpage at <http://www.scwrp.org/>.

A contract between Environment Now on behalf of the WRP and the State Water Resources Control Board has resulted in a number of useful and interesting products including maps and reports. These may be found at <http://www.lasgrwc.org/WRP.htm>.

### **Watershed Management Initiative Chapter**

Each Regional Board has a "chapter" in a statewide document which describes the Region's watersheds and their priority water quality issues. The last update occurred in October 2004. The consolidated statewide document is the basis for many funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Future updates will occur on an as-needed basis. The document may be obtained electronically (in MSWord) by contacting Shirley Birosik, Watershed Coordinator, at 213-576-6679 or [sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbirosik@waterboards.ca.gov). It can also be downloaded in its entirety by accessing the Regional Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> and clicking on "Watersheds" on the left side-bar. In addition, "Watersheds" will lead to a clickable map of the region's watersheds for information specific to each one.

### **Funding**

Information on a wide variety of funding sources is available on the California Watershed Funding Database website at <http://calwatershedfunds.org/>.

## ***Groundwater Division***

### ***Groundwater Permitting/Cleanup***

#### **BP Carson Refinery (BP West Coast Products/Atlantic Richfield)**

Paul Cho

The BP Carson Refinery is operated by a British Petroleum affiliate on 702 acres in the City of Carson. Regional Board oversight of extensive cleanup activities at this site is through Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued in 1985 and in 1990. As part of the cleanup effort, BP participated in a regional effort (along with ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil, and Kinder-Morgan) to develop a 3-D flow model that will accurately predict flow paths – in particular, the flow of groundwater contaminated with fuel oxygenates in the Lynwood and Silverado aquifers. Staff at the Regional Board and US EPA have requested assis-

tance from US EPA's modeling experts in Ada, Oklahoma, to review the model, including calibration and validation.

In addition, a contractor under direction of the US EPA is completing a Remediation System Evaluation (RSE). During August, both Regional Board and US EPA staff met with the contractor at the refinery, to tour the site and discuss initial results of the RSE. Upon receipt of a draft report, expected by the end of September, staff will review and submit comments prior to finalization of the report, expected by the end of October.

### **Carson Terminal (Equilon, dba Shell Oil)**

Paul Cho

Shell Oil operates the Carson Terminal, including a tank farm and distribution facility, on 400 acres in the City of Carson. A chemical manufacturing plant and petroleum refinery that also operated on the site were shut down in 1982 and 1991, respectively.

Since August 2001, staff of the Regional Board and US EPA have had a series of meetings to discuss Shell Oil's progress toward meeting environmental indicator (EI) goals established under the federal RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act). Due to difficulty in tracking offsite migration of oxygenate plumes, Shell Oil will not meet the US EPA's September 2005 deadline for completion of the determination. In order to expedite off-site drilling, Regional Board staff has issued over 30 letters to property owners downgradient of the Shell Terminal, requesting access on behalf of Shell Oil. As necessary, staff is escalating the written requests to enforceable directives, under authority provided by the Water Code, section 13267.

Concurrent with the US EPA's EI oversight, staff is consolidating several older Orders into an updated revised Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO), and will include targets and interim performance measures to ensure timely progress on characterization, control, and cleanup of contamination.

## ***Landfill Unit***

### **Proposed Expansions of Landfills**

Wendy Phillips

Staff have been notified of several proposed expansions of landfills, including: the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (County portion) near Granada Hills, the Bradley Landfill in Sun Valley (a proposed vertical expansion), and the Simi Valley landfill (a proposed horizontal expansion, to the north). Operators of these landfills are not certain of the timing of the proposed expansions, and formal permit applications have been received for Sunshine only. In the case of the Bradley Landfill, it is not clear how the proposed expansion will be timed with the scheduled closure deadline, per a conditional use permit, of December 2006.

In the meantime, staff is working on the revision of the Puente Hills Landfill, in Hacienda Heights, and has scheduled board consideration of these WDRs (Waste Discharge Requirements) for the March 9, 2006 board meeting. These tentative revised WDRs include a minor expansion (12 acres) along a portion of the southern border, and a more sophisticated monitoring program.

### **Puente Hills Landfill (Hacienda Heights)**

Enrique Casas

Staff prepared tentative Revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the October 6, 2005 Regional Board Meeting for the Puente Hills Landfill to consolidate and clarify numerous existing orders and to reflect a minor lateral expansion. Because of the complex nature of the WDRs and the number of issues involved, and in order to allow additional time for the public to submit comments and for staff to respond to

any comments, consideration of the WDRs by the Regional Board was postponed to the November 3, 2005 Regional Board regular meeting. Comments were to be received by the October 12, 2005 deadline from two parties, the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (discharger) and Ms. Toni Stein, a private citizen. Subsequently, after review of Ms. Stein's comments by the Discharger regarding continued acceptance of incinerator ash disposal at the Landfill, the Discharger requested a two-month deferral of the item to allow consideration of Landfill operational practices to address Ms. Stein's primary concerns. Ms. Stein's primary concerns are inclusion of a provision that the ash disposed only be allowed in lined areas and to assure that the monitoring program includes federal toxicity testing requirements. Regional Board staff accepted a deferral to the March 9, 2006 Board meeting conditioned on:

Submittal of a response/discussion regarding Ms. Stein's comments, including an electronic version that can be made available to all interested parties via the Regional Board website prior to the Board meeting.

Completion of a public workshop to discuss incinerator ash disposal at the Landfill with all interested parties (schedule to be announced).

Extension of public comments regarding the tentative Order to two weeks prior to the Regional Board meeting.

### **Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Granada Hills)**

**Joint Technical Document (JTD):** On September 8, 2005, staff received a JTD (Joint Technical Document) from the operator (Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc of California [BFI]) of Sunshine Canyon Landfill for an expansion of the existing operating municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill located entirely within the County of Los Angeles. In accordance with title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, Board staff reviewed the JTD within 30 days, and formally notified BFI that the JTD was not complete. BFI is currently revising the JTD in response to the comments included in the letter and will re-submit the JTD for further review by staff. Staff will have 30 days to determine if the document is complete when it is resubmitted. Tentative WDRs will be prepared for the Board to consider within 90 days of the JTDs completion.

**Notice of Violation (NOV) for Release of Wastewater to Storm Drain:** On October 28, 2005, the Executive Officer issued an NOV to BFI for a release that occurred from the landfill on October 7, 2005. The release, which was caused by a broken pipeline that would normally discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer, was discovered by site personnel at 4:40 pm and was repaired by 7:00 pm the same day. Based on operation records at the site, BFI estimated that the maximum amount of wastewater that could have been released from the pipeline was approximately 14,500 gallons. The wastewater carried in the pipeline includes seep water collected under the Sunshine Canyon City Landfill, subdrain water collected under the Sunshine Canyon County Extension Landfill, and leachate and gas condensate that has been treated at the onsite leachate treatment plant. Although none of the three wastewater sources was hazardous, the release of wastewater to storm drain constituted a violations to the WDRs for the landfill and the General Industrial Stormwater Permit. The NOV requires BFI to submit a report to the Regional Board to detail the actions that BFI will take to ensure that such incident do not occur in the future.

### **Crown Valley Building Supply – Acton**

Orlando Gonzalez

Crown Valley Building Supply discharges domestic wastewater to a septic tank and leachfield subject to Waste Discharge Requirements specified in Order No. 91-097. On November 9, 2005, staff issued a Notice of Violation to Crown Valley Building Supply for failure, over a period of several years, to submit monitoring reports required by Order No. 91-097 as well as technical reports relating to a ground water monitoring plan and details of septic tank construction.

### **Two Harbors Sewage Treatment Plant - Catalina**

Orlando Gonzalez

Two Harbors Sewage Treatment Plant (Plant) discharges treated domestic wastewater to the surface for irrigation and dust control subject to Waste Discharge Requirements adopted by this Regional Board in Order No. 00-094. For several years, the discharger has violated effluent limits. On December 9, 2005, staff issued a Notice of Violation, directing corrective action, and requiring submittal of technical reports detailing the operations of the Plant and impacts to water quality as the result of discharging effluent in concentrations exceeding effluent limits.

### **City of Fillmore – Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Orlando Gonzalez

Staff has deferred presentation of tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), scheduled for consideration at the January 19th meeting of the Regional Board, until a later date. Numerous comments were received on the tentative WDRs, indicative of differing interpretations of regulatory definitions and requirements for wastewater versus reclaimed water, as well as staffs' decision to not allow the City's proposed inflow of untreated water softening waste at the end of the proposed treatment train, prior to subsurface disposal. However, staff is deleting a provision from the tentative WDRs that prohibited future use of water softeners. Discussions with the City and its consultants on other issues are on-going.

## ***Non-15/Waste Discharge Program***

### **Thatcher School (Ojai)**

Thatcher School is a boarding school, located in a rural area near Ojai, for Grades 8-12 students. For disposal of wastewater, Thatcher relies on an onsite wastewater treatment plant that has an average daily dry weather inflow of 17,000 gallons per day (gpd). Since February 2002, the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD) has been operating the plant under contract with the Thatcher School. The treatment system, which in the past didn't produce an effluent that met permit limits of Order No. R4-2003-0076, was recently upgraded (and operational changes were implemented) in order to comply with a Time Schedule Order issued to Thatcher School by this Regional Board. This upgrade included steps to address odor complaints from nearby neighbors – specifically, a flow control system assuring the correct ratio between the microorganisms and the influent, and a schedule for sludge pick-up at times when the neighbors aren't home.

### **Fillmore Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Tentative waste discharge requirements for the Fillmore Waste Water Treatment Plant will be considered at the January 19, 2006 Regional Board meeting.

## ***Remediation Section***

### **Enforcement Developments at the Former Excello Company (Glendale South Operable Unit)**

Dixon Oriola

Regional Board staff have been coordinating enforcement action against the former Excello Plating Company in Glendale with DTSC. Implementation of the Regional Board's *Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R4-2003-0038* has been temporarily delayed until DTSC ensures that all hazardous chemicals have been removed from the site under Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) statutes. Also, signs have been posted to alert adjacent residents of ongoing regulatory enforcement at the former Excello Plating Shop. On October 7, 2005 DTSC issued an *Imminent & Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order* to

the Spirito Family Trust, the property owner. Compliance with DTSC regulations is expected to conclude by mid February 2006. The former Excellor Plating Company is also under criminal misdemeanor charges by the City of Los Angeles.

### **Perchlorate Environmental Contamination**

Dixon Oriola

Regional Board staff has received 7 Reports documenting assessment appraisals at active or former US Department of Defense (DoD) facilities. Below is a list of Perchlorate investigative reports recently received by the Regional Board in fulfillment of directive letters sent to the US Department of Defense (DoD). These FUDs and other suspected Perchlorate impacted sites are currently being investigated (by the Regional Board).

- Van Nuys Army Air Field, Van Nuys
- Air Force Plant No. 16, Downey
- Azusa Dump Site Owl 4X Plant, Azusa
- Lockheed Air Terminal (FUDs), Burbank
- Marquardt Ram Jet Development, Van Nuys
- Los Pinetos Nike LA-94 (FUDs), Santa Clarita Valley
- Pomona Ordinance Depot, Pomona

### **Status Report on Phase II of the San Fernando Valley Chromium VI Investigation**

Dixon Oriola

Regional Board staff is continuing Phase II of the San Fernando Valley Chromium Investigation. To date, of the 106 sites under investigation, 69 have been issued "No Further Requirements" letters, leaving 37 active sites. This phase of the investigation is intended to identify heavy metal (including chromium) sites that have impacted the soil and possibly the groundwater. Due to requests for additional time, the anticipated conclusion of all fieldwork is expected to be in April 2006.

### **Inter-Agency Coordination of Assessment & Cleanup for new suspected Chromium VI sites in San Fernando Valley**

Dixon Oriola

Regional Board staff met with representatives for USEPA and DTSC on November 14, 2005, to discuss the possible transfer of 28 additional Chromium sites. This caseload is separate from the 106 currently under investigation by the Regional Board.

## ***Underground Storage Tank Program***

### **Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites**

Yue Rong

Regional Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking underground storage tanks for the time of **November 10, 2005** through **December 20, 2005**, and determined that no further corrective actions are required for the following sites:

- Sears Automotive Center #1308, Canoga Park (913070061)
- Mobil Station #18-EQO, South El Monte (R-03061W)
- Atlas Rubber Inc., Los Angeles (R-40786)
- Former Shell Station, Torrance (905010189)

For the case closure sites above, a total of **513** tons of impacted soil were excavated and **1300** pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons were recovered by the vapor extraction treatment system.

## ***Grants & Loans***

### **New Roundtable**

Raymond Jay

Following numerous requests by the Regional Boards, the grants and loans coordinators from the State and Regional Boards held their first statewide Grants Roundtable, with the objective of facilitating communication among different funding programs. This first roundtable meeting was effective in sharing concerns and brainstorming on solutions to make grant management more effective, less contentious, and less time consuming. Regular quarterly meetings as well as monthly conference calls have been scheduled to initiate implementation of some of the proposed solutions. Some of the issues discussed included clarifying requirements for CEQA, standardizing and streamlining progress reports and invoices, Quality Assurance Control Plans (QAPPs), Project Assessment and Evaluation Plans (PAEPs) approvals as well as termination of non productive projects.

### **Review of Grant Applications**

Raymond Jay

The Grant and Loans Program staff have been working simultaneously in five key areas: 1) Solicitation of the funding program, 2) Selection of the most competitive projects, 3) Preparation & Approval of the Grant or Contract, 4) Managing the progress of the grant or contract, and finally 5) Demonstrating regional water quality improvements.

Staff is currently involved in each of the five Grant and Loans Program areas as described below. Under solicitation of funding, staff has been participating in pre-solicitation meetings with technical review committees and educating the public on the funding available under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) Step 2 Implementation Grant, 2005-06 Consolidate Grant, Clean Beach Initiative (CBI), State Revolving Fund (SRF), and Agriculture Water Recycling Loan programs. Under the selection of the most competitive projects, staff has been working with technical review committee for the CBI, IRWM Planning Grant and IRWM Step 1 Implementation Grant. A public meeting to discuss funding recommendations for the IRWM Planning Proposals is scheduled for 9/23/05 at the CALEPA building in Sacramento with awards expected by November 2005. A draft list of the funding list can be found at <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm#PreliminaryEvaluations>. Seven IRWM Step 1 Implementation proposals have been reviewed in-house, consolidated, and submitted to the technical review team on September 21, 2005 for discussion. Technical consensus reviews for the IRWM Step 1 Implementation proposals should be completed by mid October. Staff expects to finalize grant agreements for the three AWQGP proposals in October. Staff is currently managing 49 executed contracts and grants to ensure that adequate progress and detailed reporting. Several Grantees have recently been formally notified of overdue submittals and been given ultimatums to get the project back on target or relinquish the funding.

Additional funding information can be found at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/docs/grantnews.pdf>

### **Web Site Upgrades**

Raymond Jay

The SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance has improved its web site and now has a News Letter (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/docs/grantnews.pdf>) that summarizes the funding information in a user friendly manner. As can be read on the website, the SWRCB has now committed \$886 million of the \$1.27

billion (70%) among 604 projects. In addition, a summary of how the SWRCB/RWQCB bond money is being used can be found at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/docs/bondmoney.pdf>

Additionally, the LA RWQCB is in the process of revising its web site, to better inform the public on the location and details of 56 funded projects in the Los Angeles Region. This website contains a link to the Natural Resource Project Inventory, a searchable database, (<http://www.ice.ucdavis.edu/nrpi>), where projects funded by the Board have been recognize a new report, [Celebrating 10 Years of Successful Watershed Conservation & Restoration Efforts in California](#). Staff will be making further upgrades to the LA RWQCB's website before the end of the year.

### **The Grant Pipeline**

Raymond Jay

The Grant and Loans Program staff have been working simultaneously in five key areas of the pipeline: 1) Solicitation of the funding opportunities; 2) Selection of the most competitive projects; 3) Preparation & Approval of the Grant or Contract; 4) Managing the progress of the Grant or Contract; and finally 5) Helping demonstrate regional water quality improvements from the projects. Staff is currently involved in each of the five Grant and Loans Program areas as described below.

**Funding Opportunities:** Staff has been participating in pre-solicitation funding meetings with technical review committees and educating the public on the funding available under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) Step 2 Implementation Grant, 2005-06 Consolidate Grant, Clean Beach Initiative (CBI), State Revolving Fund (SRF), and Agriculture Water Recycling Loan programs. See the following web site for details: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/index.html#request> or <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/other-funding.html> for other funding links.

Applications are currently being accepted for:

[Agricultural Drainage Loan Program](#)  
[Agricultural Drainage Management Loan Program](#)  
[Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program](#)  
[State Revolving Fund Loan Program](#)  
[Water Recycling Funding Program \(Proposition 50\)](#)

Upcoming RFPs and Solicitations include:

[Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Program](#) (step 2-Implementation by invitation only)  
[2005-06 Consolidation of Watershed Protection and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants](#)

**Project Selection:** Staff has been working with technical review committee for the CBI, IRWM Planning Grant and IRWM Step 1 Implementation Grant to select the most competitive projects. Recently, staff reviewed seven IRWM Step 1 Implementation proposals, consolidated comments, and submitted to the technical review team. This technical review team completed its review in late October, and announcements of awards are expected in January 2006.

**Proposals Awarded:** The IRWM planning grant funding list was approved by the SWRCB at its meeting on October 20th. The DWR Director is considering final approval of the IRWM planning grant funding list at this time. We anticipate that some additional funding will be available to Los Angeles if the three Draft IRWM plans can be combined into one larger consolidated Los Angeles area IRWM plan.

**Grant Agreements:** Staff expects to finalize grant agreements for the three AWQGP agriculture water quality (AWQGP) proposals in November. A few remaining issues need to be worked out prior to final approval. All new agreements will include specific GIS location requirements to facilitate information sharing and funding transparency.

**Projects in Process:** Staff is currently managing 49 active contracts and grants to ensure that adequate progress and detailed reporting. Six projects have recently been amended to extend the final deadline and facilitate project success. Staff has updated our QAPP process to ensure data quality and expedite approval.

A Breach of Grant letter is being issued to the grantee of the San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Use Assessment and Trash Reduction Program project. The project has fallen further behind schedule, despite additional guidance to the grantee. The project faces cancellation due to the probable inability of the grantee to meet the intent of the grant within the given time frame. Funding of the grant (\$791,400) would be returned to the State Water Resources Control Board for re-appropriation if the project were rescinded. Funds were allocated from Proposition 13, Phase III bond monies.

Several other Grantees including The City of Los Angeles and the State Coastal Conservancy have also recently been formally notified of overdue submittals and been given ultimatums to get the project back on target or relinquish the funding. Clarification on CEQA, QAPP, PAEP, and reporting requirements are being finalized and sent to Project Directors to ensure adequate detail and timely completion.

**Projects Completed:** No projects have been completed in the past quarter. We anticipate several projects to be finalized by March 2006.

### **El Rio Sewer Project**

On December 1, 2005, Regional Board staff Wendy Phillips, Raymond Jay, and David Koo attended the community meeting at Rio Mesa High School in Oxnard. The purpose of the meeting was to update the residents in the community of El Rio on the progress of the sewer system construction and to provide information on how residents can connect to the sewer system and abandon their existing septic systems. This sewer system construction project is in response to the Los Angeles Regional Boards Oxnard Forebay Septic System Prohibition. Wendy Phillips gave a presentation on the Prohibition to remind the residents of El Rio of the necessity of this sewer system construction project.

Regional Board staff is currently managing 2 grants with a total amount of \$5,000,000 to fund the construction of the sewer system. The first phase of the construction was completed on time in November of 2005. The second phase is targeted for completion in March, 2007. The County of Ventura is working to have the entire system on-line by the 2008 deadline.

Regional Board staff worked closely with the County of Ventura during the construction project and attended several community meetings to keep the public informed of the progress of the project. The County of Ventura supervisors appreciate the efforts of the Regional Board staff and will continue to work with us on the second phase of the sewer construction project.

### **Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) - Two Unique Opportunities**

State Board has contracted Moss Landing Marine Laboratories to review and comment on approximately 160 QAPPs throughout the State. This presents a unique opportunity as many of Regional Boards are backlogged with QAPPs, often slowing down grant/contract execution. All Grant Managers expecting to receive QAPPs should encourage their grantees to submit both a hard copy and an electronic version of their document for review. In addition to the contracted assistance, State Board is also offering a two-day training course through UC Extension in both SWAMP Monitoring and Quality Assurance. These courses are available for both State employees as well as the Project Directors. The November course held in Riverside had a large turnout, with many Region 4 Grant Managers attending as well as Project Directors from within our region. These directors included members from Santa Monica Baykeeper, UC Cooperative Extension, City of Santa Monica, North East Trees, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. These two new programs will promote the timely review of QAPPs and encourage the production of a "Quality" document.

### **San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Use Assessment and Trash Reduction Program Breach of Contract**

A Breach of Grant letter was issued on November 18th to the grantee of the San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Use Assessment and Trash Reduction Program project. The project has fallen further behind schedule, despite additional guidance to the grantee. The project faces cancellation due to the probable inability of the grantee to meet the intent of the grant within the given time frame. Funding of the grant (\$791,400) would be returned to the State Water Resources Control Board for reappropriation if the project is rescinded. Funds were allocated from Proposition 13, Phase III bond monies.

### **2005 NonPoint Source Pollution Conference**

Staff from the Grants and Loans unit attended the third biennial NPS Pollution Conference in Sacramento, CA. During the three day conference topics staff participated in sessions such as TMDL implementation: Restoring Impaired Water bodies, Assessing and Evaluating Project Success and Vegetated Treatment Systems. The conference concluded with a full day field trip to either Cache Creek or the Mokelumme River Watershed. Grants and Loans unit chief Raymond Jay served as the moderator for the Developing and Implementing Watershed Plans session. In addition, Jason Pelletier, a grant program director from North East Trees, presented his project on, Watershed Planning and Best Management Practices in the Arroyo Seco. The conference was attended by over 350 representatives from various levels of government, environmental non-profits and the regulated community.

### **Cancellation of Projects**

The Regional Board recently cancelled two Proposition 13 contracts in the San Gabriel Valley; Little Dalton Canyon Environmental Discovery Center and Equestrian Facility, \$621,500.00 and Project Connect Restoring the Creek Community Connection in the San Gabriel Valley, \$ 625,500.00 administered by the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy. The Conservancy failed to meet contract requirements and had outstanding items for over a year. The Regional Board is committed to funding outcome driven projects and working with contractors who are accountable.

### **Ventura County Resource Conservation District**

The Ventura County Resource Conservation District informed the Regional Board that they would be unable to complete a portion of their 319(h) Phase III: Calleguas Creek Watershed Treatment Project. The Conservation District was unable to locate farmers willing to participate in the stream bank stabilization portion of the project. The project provided funds to farmers in the Calleguas Creek watershed who stabilized their stream banks with environmental sensitive practices approved by the Conservation District. The farmers would have been reimbursed for all construction activities if they implemented the practices. The unused \$96,000.00 will be returned to the State.

### **Prop 50 Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan**

Grants and Loans unit chief Raymond Jay was recently asked to speak at a county-wide workshop hosted by the Ventura County. The counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles were invited to participate. Topics of discussion include future funding opportunities, updates of current projects, and technical assistance needed to move forward.

### **Oxnard Forebay Septic Prohibition**

David Koo

In August 1999, the Regional Board imposed a prohibition on about 1,300 septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay, including the unincorporated communities of El Rio, Stickland Acres, Saticoy, and a small portion of the City of Oxnard. With the prohibition becoming effective in January 2008, staff are concerned about obstacles faced by the County, which has estimated total costs at \$30 million (which include construction

costs and a City of Oxnard connection fee, but which do not include residents' costs of constructing laterals on their properties). To date, the State has contributed approximately 25% of the budgeted cost, in the form of grants. However, staff are concerned that other specific sources of funding have not yet been procured. The County has informed staff that it will apply for a low-interest loan under the State's SRF program, to cover a portion of the deficit, but has not yet submitted an application.

In the meantime, and at the County's invitation, staff attended a community meeting of over 350 residents in and around Stickland Acres, and discussed the need for the septic prohibition.

## ***SLIC IV Unit***

### **Former Slide Systems Facility (El Segundo)**

Kwang-il Lee

Slide Systems, Inc. (SSI) operated a precision metal stamping facility, located on a 1/2-acre property in El Segundo, from 1983 to 2003. SSI used the chlorinated solvent tetrachloroethene (PCE or perchloroethene) at the site for parts cleaning for numerous years. In addition to a former PCE aboveground storage tank (AST), SSI previously used a vapor degreaser on the Property in the same area as the AST. In 1998, PCE was detected at concentrations as high as 5,360 µg/L (micrograms per liter) in the southeast corner of the building where the AST and vapor degreaser were located. The ongoing groundwater investigation is being conducted to delineate the extent of the PCE plume. However, the landowner (140 Standard Street Partners, LLC) is requesting a "no further action" status from the Board claiming that the PCE plume could be impacted by a groundwater contamination generated from the Chevron Refinery. On October 28, 2005, the landowner submitted a health risk assessment report for the site. Board staff is in process of reviewing the health risk assessment report. Staff is also considering additional locations for a boring and sampling in order to verify the current site conditions.

### **Former Price Pfister (Pacoima)**

Mohammad Zaid

The former Price Pfister facility, a 25-acre land parcel in Pacoima, was used for manufacture of plumbing parts from approximately the mid-1950s to 2002. As a result of these activities, the site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons and metals. From 1995 to the present, the site has gone through a series of soil and groundwater assessments. Over 2,600 soil samples and over 900 soil gas/vapor samples have been collected to define the extent of the VOC contamination. A remedial action plan for the site was approved in 2003. Soil vapor extraction systems and air sparging systems have been operated to remediate the soil and groundwater contamination. To date, most buildings have been demolished. Staff is reviewing the *Soil Excavation Completion Report*, which documented excavation, removal, offsite disposal of contaminated soil and the analytical results of the confirmation soil samples.

The former Price Pfister facility and nearby residential community are within a designated community redevelopment site. This case has been a high priority case since late 2002, and over the past years staff have worked closely with the community, elected officials, and the responsible parties to expedite cleanup in preparation for site redevelopment. A public meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2005 to provide the Pacoima community and stakeholders on progress of clean-up at the site and to address any public concerns.

### **Los Angeles Air Force Base Area A**

Jeffrey Hu

The Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB), built in 1950s and 1960s, is in the process of replacing its cur-

rent buildings which do not meet current building codes for Fire or Earthquake safety. The Los Angeles Air Force Base, Area A, is of approximately 41.5 acres and located southeast of the intersection of El Segundo Boulevard and Aviation Boulevard in the City of Hawthorne. Area A is currently occupied with seven buildings. The Regional Board staff closely worked with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the Air Force, and the developer team to expedite subsurface investigations for Area A. Subsurface investigation, risk assessment, and site cleanup were all successfully completed between December 2003 and March 2005. On September 22, 2005, the Regional Board issued a no further action (NFA) letter for the Area A.

### **Pico Rivera Marine Corps Reserve Center**

Jeffrey Hu

Marine Corps Reserve Center (MCRC), Pico Rivera is located at 3551 San Gabriel River Parkway in the City of Pico Rivera. The facility currently serves as a training and administration center for Battery 'B' 1st Battalion, 14th Marine, 4th Marine Division. The site encompasses 5 acres and has been in operation since 1958.

In 1988, MCRC removed two 1,000-gallon petroleum underground storage tanks (USTs) from the facility. The USTs were installed in 1958 and stored gasoline and diesel fuels until their removal. The former USTs site is one of the six Areas of Concern at the facility. During the UST removal, contaminated soils were excavated and removed from the site. Navy further conducted Phase I and Phase II investigations at the site in 2002 and 2003. In November 2005, staff has completed an evaluation of the subsurface investigation data related to the USTs and prepared a closure package to recommend a no further action (NFA) for the former UST site.

Staff is working with the Navy and Department of Toxic Substances Control staff toward the closure of the other Areas of Concern.

### **ExxonMobil Refinery (Torrance)**

Elizabeth Erickson

ExxonMobil operates one of the largest refineries in the Region – the Torrance Refinery – on a site covering 740 acres. Staff have been working with officials at ExxonMobil Refinery and the City of Torrance staff to ramp up a public participation program. Initially, about 30 residents who live near the intersection of Del Amo and Madrona have been sent a Fact Sheet, summarizing a project to clean up a small portion of the refinery contaminated with chrome VI, and notifying them of a public meeting at the Regional Board on March 9, 2006. During this public meeting, the Regional Board will consider adoption of a WDR (Waste Discharge Requirements, i.e. permit) for a pilot injection project to clean up the chrome 6. Additional investigations and interim remedial measures for petroleum hydrocarbon contamination released from the refinery, along with an expanded public outreach program, will be developed and implemented in 2006.

For additional information from ExxonMobil, please contact Carolin Wade at (310) 212-4618 or [carolin.a.keith@exxonmobil.com](mailto:carolin.a.keith@exxonmobil.com). For a Regional Board contact, please call Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6697 or [eerickson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:eerickson@waterboards.ca.gov).

## ***Public Outreach***

### **Underground Storage Tank Program Received Recognition from USEPA Region 9**

Yue Rong

In cooperation with USEPA Region 9 in its California Accelerated Leak Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Program, Board Underground Storage Tank Program received a recognition from the USEPA Underground Storage Tank Program in the efforts for case closure and supporting local agencies. The plaque of the recognition was presented to staff on 12/19/05.

### **UST Working Group Meeting**

Yue Rong

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board hosted a regular 23rd Underground Storage Tank (UST) Working Group meeting on December 2, 2005. Regional Board staff has created a unique public outreach forum for the UST Program. UST Working Group meetings have been held 3 to 4 times a year since 1997. The UST working group consists of a wide range of social interest groups including local government agencies, major oil companies, environmental organizations, consultants, environmental law firms, analytical testing laboratories, realtors, bankers, Regional Board staff, and other special interest groups (e.g., the California League of Cities). The UST Working Group meetings are an open forum and any participant or group member may actively participate by presenting subjects of interest related to USTs. The 23rd meeting focused on monitoring natural attenuation and risk management of MTBE and TBA in groundwater, presented by EPA staff Dr. John Wilson. Approximate 30 people were in attendance. Future meeting agenda can be seen on Regional Boards website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>).

## ***Staff Development***

### **Project Assessment and Evaluation**

Raymond Jay

Staff attended training on Project Assessment and Evaluation Plans in Riverside as well as the California Non Point Source Conference in Sacramento. Additional training on Quality Assurance Program Plans and Monitoring Design is scheduled for late November.

### **Staff Transfer**

Ms. Elizabeth Erickson transferred from the TMDL Unit to the SLIC IV Unit on November 1, 2005. Ms. Erickson was a lead person developing an agricultural waste discharge management policy in the TMDL Unit. She also has private consulting experience with respect to the soil and groundwater investigation and remediation. She will primarily be responsible for managing several refineries and engaging the public in cleanup decisions.

### **Staff Development**

Ms. Lindsay Sirota joined the Grants and Loans Units on August 15, 2005. Lindsay comes to the unit with a Master Degree in Ecology from San Diego State University. Lindsay will primarily be responsible for managing several Grant Agreements and with Quality Assurance Project Plan review and approvals. We look forward to utilizing her experience in our projects.

## ***Personnel Report***

As of January 19, 2006 our staff total is 136: 117 technical staff (including 3 part-time staff), 9 permanent analytical staff and 10 permanent clerical staff.

The following promotions were made:

**Gwendolyn Monroe**, from Staff Services Analyst to Associate Governmental Program Analyst effective September 9, 2005.

**Theresa Rodgers**, from Staff Services Analyst to Associate Governmental Program Analyst effective September 1, 2005.

The following appointments were made:

**Rebecca Veiga Nascimento**, Environmental Scientist, Regional Programs Section, appointed November 7, 2005.

**Pansy Yuen**, Environmental Scientist, Compliance and Enforcement Section, appointed December 19, 2005.

The following separated from Region 4:

**David Rasmussen**, Environmental Scientist, transferred to California Department of Toxic Substances Control, effective November 18, 2005.

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program**

Valerie Carrillo/Dana Cole

As of January 3, 2006, the Regional Board has received 17 new applications for Section 401 Water Quality Certification actions. Currently, 63 applications are still pending. The following table lists the Certification actions have been issued since the preparation of the last Executive Officers Report.

Certification actions recently issued and project descriptions for applications currently being reviewed can be viewed from our Web Site located at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/401wqc.html>.

For additional information regarding our Section 401 Program, please contact Valerie Carrillo (213) 576-6759. Any petitions for the appeal of a Section 401 Water Quality Certification action must be filed within 30 days of the date of its issuance. We encourage public input during the Certification process.

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program**

DATE OF ISSU- ANCE	STAFF	APPLICANT	PROJECT	ACTION
11/14/05	VC	Jeanne Harvey	Thatcher Creek Streambed Restoration	Conditional WQC
11/14/05	VC	County Sanitation District of Los Angeles County	Joint Water Pollution Control Plant Marshland Enhancement	Conditional WQC
11/14/05	VC	City of Oxnard	Santa Clara Outlet Repair	Conditional WQC
12/6/05	DC	Centex Homes Corporation	Sterling (Formerly Dayton Canyon Estates)	Re-issuance of Conditional WQC
12/8/05	VC	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	San Gabriel River (Soft-Bottom Reach 40B) Scoured Levee Repair	Conditional WQC
12/8/05	VC	Live Oak Trails	Live Oak Trails Tract 48952	Conditional WQC
12/8/05	VC	City of Ventura, Utilities Division	Foster Park Storm Damage Repairs	Conditional WQC
12/8/05	VC	Seneca Resources Corporation	Hamp Bridge Repair	Conditional WQC
12/16/05	DC	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Drinkwater Flats Service Road Repair	Conditional WQC
12/19/05	DC	Santa Clara Resources	Santa Clara Sediment Excavation	Conditional WQC
12/23/05	VC	California Department of Transportation	I-5 Templin Highway Slide/Violin Canyon Disposal Site	Conditional WQC
12/23/05	VC	Griffin Industries	Heritage Valley Parks Permitting II	Conditional WQC

**Attachment "A" Table I**

**SUMMARY OF GENERAL PERMITTING UNIT ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2005**

		Date of Coverage	Date of Revision	Date of Termination
<b>A.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994001 (Order No. 97-045) Dewatering (no treatment)</b>			
<b>B</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994002 (Order No. 97-043) Dewatering (treatment required)</b>			
<b>C.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994004 (Order No. R4-2003-0111) Construction &amp; Project Dewatering</b>			
1	City of Oxnard, South Bank of Santa Clara River Outlet Repair Project, Santa Clara River Near Ventura Road, Oxnard	12/6/05		
2	Marina Del Rey Venture, LLC., Apartment Building Located at 13700 Maria Pointe Drive, Marina Del Rey			12/7/05
3	BRE Builders, Wilshire Pinnacle Project, 5600 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles	12/07/05		
4	AK Live/Work Project, 1121 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, Venice			12/7/05
5	Beverly Hills San Ysidro Associate, San Ysidro Project, 1156 San Ysidro Drive, Beverly Hills			12/8/05
6	L2 Companies, Segment E of Townhomes at the River, Tract No. 5353 River Street, Fillmore	12/9/05		
7	900 N. Doheny Homeowners Association, 900 N. Doheny Drive, West Hollywood	12/9/05		
8	L2 Companies, Segment D of Townhomes at the River, Tract No. 5353 River Street, Fillmore	12/13/05		
9	L2 Companies, Segment C of Townhomes at the River, Tract No. 5353 River Street, Fillmore	12/13/05		
10	City of West Hollywood, Library Addition Project, 751 N. Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood	12/20/05		
11	Aquarium of the Pacific, Saltwater Well, Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach	12/20/05		
12	City of Lakewood, Water Resources Division (Arbor Yard Well No. 23) 5812 Arbor Road, Lakewood	12/20/05		
12	Camarillo Water Reclamation Plant Upgrade Construction, 150 Howard Road, Camarillo	12/21/05		
13	L2 Companies, Segment E of Townhomes at the River, Tract No. 5353 River Street, Fillmore	12/20/05		
14	Sailhouse LLC, Sailhouse Lofts, 212 Marine Street, Santa Monica			12/20/05
<b>D.</b>	<b>NPDES No. CAG994005 (Order NO. R4-2003-0108) Potable Water Supply Wells Discharges</b>			
1	City of Glendale, Department of Water and Power, (Glorietta Well Nos. 3, 4, 6 and Verdugo Well Nos. A&B, Various Locations Within the City of Glendale	12/1/05		
2	Rubio Canon Land and Water Association Well No. 7 Pump Testing & Start-up Test, 265 W. Figueroa Drive, Altadena			12/5/05
<b>E.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG674001 (Order No. R4-2004-0109) Hydrostatic Test Water</b>			
<b>F.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994003 (Order No. R4-2004-0058) Nonprocess</b>			
1	Los Angeles Convention Center, City of Los Angeles,			12/20/05
<b>G.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG834001 (Order No.2002-0125) – Cleanup of Petroleum Fuel Pollution</b>			
<b>H.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG914001(Order No. 2002-0107) – Cleanup of Volatile Organic Compounds Contaminated Groundwater</b>			

**Attachment "A" Table I**

**SUMMARY OF GENERAL PERMITTING UNIT ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER 2005**

		Date of Coverage	Date of Revision	Date of Termination
<b>A.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994001 (Order No. 97-045) Dewatering (no treatment)</b>			
1	City of Burbank, Wells Nos. 7 and 15, 164 West Magnolia Boulevard, Burbank			11/18/05
<b>B.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994002 (Order No. 97-043) Dewatering (treatment required)</b>			
<b>C.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994004 (Order No. R4-2003-0111) Construction &amp; Project Dewatering</b>			
1	Wilshire Entertainment Center, LLC – Wilshire/Western Commercial Building, 3785 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles	11/2/05		
2	California State University, Los Angeles, Parking Structure III, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles	11/18/05		
3	Live Oak Trails, LLC., Live Oak Trails 17 - Home Development Project, 2510 Golden Hills Road, La Verne		11/22/05	
4	City of San Buenaventura, Foster Park River Pipeline Repair Project, Foster Park, Ventura	11/29/05		
5	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Lennox County Park, 10828 South Condon Avenue, Los Angeles			11/28/05
6	City of Thousand Oaks, Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction Project, 9600 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo			11/30/05
<b>D.</b>	<b>NPDES No. CAG994005 (Order NO. R4-2003-0108) Potable Water Supply Wells Discharges</b>			
<b>E.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG674001 (Order No. R4-2004-0109) Hydrostatic Test Water</b>			
1	Calleguas Municipal Water District, Oxnard Plain Brine Line Phase IB Project, Along Hueneme Road, Between Rice Avenue and Los Posas Road, Oxnard	11/15/05		
<b>F.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG994003 (Order No. R4-2004-0058) Nonprocess</b>			
<b>G.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG834001 (Order No.2002-0125) – Cleanup of Petroleum Fuel Pollution</b>			
1	Whittier Yard (Hood Corporation), 8201 Sorenson Avenue, Santa Fe Springs	11/16/05		
<b>H.</b>	<b>NPDES CAG914001(Order No. 2002-0107) – Cleanup of Volatile Organic Compounds Contaminated Groundwater</b>			